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C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000066

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND INL; DEA FOR OF, OFF;  
USPACOM FOR FPA

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TAGS: [SNAR](#) [KCRM](#) [ASEC](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: GOB CANCELS UNODC TRIP TO WA TERRITORY

REF: RANGOON 62 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: COM Carmen Martinez for Reasons 1.4 (B,D)

1. (SBU) UNODC country representative Jean-Luc Lemahieu informed us on January 18 that the Government of Burma had canceled an annual counternarcotics visit to Wa territory for members of the diplomatic corps. The trip had been scheduled to get underway on January 24, coinciding with the planned unsealing of indictments in New York of UWSA leaders (reftel). Police Colonel Hkam Awng, joint secretary of the Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control (CCDAC), explained to UNODC that the GOB is preoccupied with issues related to the December 26 tsunami and is unable to provide sufficient security for the diplomatic mission.

2. (C) Rangoon DEA Country Attache learned on January 16 that CCDAC, which has been briefed by DEA on the pending indictments, planned to cancel the diplomatic trip because the GOB believed it would be "unable to guarantee the safety" of the diplomats while in territory controlled by the UWSA. Separately, DEA Country Attache indicated to UNODC country representative on January 16 that an unspecified, though pending, law enforcement action could have some impact on UNODC activities in Wa territory. Lemahieu told us on January 18 that he is in close touch with CCDAC and is taking appropriate steps to ensure that UNODC and NGO staff in Wa territory are reviewing their emergency procedures.  
Martinez